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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 23, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 363. An act to amend section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to extend the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination Program.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] for 5 minutes.

MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS FOR CHINA NOT DESERVED

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the debate about granting most-favored-nation

status to China is not just about trade, it is about human rights. We in the United States place great value on our freedoms. The freedom of speech and the freedom to practice religion are ideals on which our country was founded.

The United States is the greatest, freest nation in the world. We enjoy the status, and yet we continue to support the oppressive Chinese Government through trade. This is not right.

The Government of the People's Republic of China is one of the most oppressive governments in the world. We have all seen footage of the terrible massacre in Tiananmen Square. Unfortunately, such massacres are hardly rare occurrences in China.

The Chinese people suffer horrible violations of their basic human rights every day. Citizens have been arrested for crimes such as signing petitions to protect human rights and speaking out peacefully in favor of democracy. Thousands of those arrested for supporting democracy or human rights become political prisoners in Chinese jails where they are beaten and tortured.

To make matters worse, Mr. Speaker, China's human rights violations extend well beyond the political realm. The Chinese people are often arrested as criminals simply for holding religious beliefs. The government continues to increase its persecution of evangelicals, Protestants, Buddhists, and Roman Catholics who choose to worship independently from the government-controlled church, a church that does not recognize the Pope.

Hundreds of Protestants and Roman Catholics were detained last year for practicing their faith. Forty Roman Catholics, for example, were arrested by police officers during Easter celebrations, and many of them were beaten. The police in China have conducted raids on nunneries and monasteries, detaining and torturing many of these people of God.

Furthermore, the Chinese Government maintains a policy of forced abortions and sterilizations. The government is not only killing supporters of freedom and religion, it is killing innocent babies.

As a man of deep religious faith and as a citizen of the United States, I cannot stand for this. By continuing to grant most-favored-nation status to China, the United States is bolstering an oppressive government that is constantly violating the basic human rights of its people.

Most-favored-nation status for China also bolsters a government that works against America's national security interests. Evidence suggests that the Chinese Government is heavily involved in missile and weapons technology transfers to Iran, one of our enemies. This is not a practice that the United States should support in any way.

A recent Louis Harris poll shows that 67 percent of Americans are opposed to renewing China's MFN status. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker. A recent Louis Harris poll shows that 67 percent of the American people are opposed to renewing China's MFN status.

As representatives of the people, I believe that Congress should follow the will of the people and revoke this status. It is high time that we follow the will of the people of America and send a real message to the Chinese Government. For the sake of democracy, religious freedom, the lives of the good people of China, and America's national security, I urge my colleagues to vote against renewing most-favored-nation status for the oppressive Chinese Government.

B-2 BOMBER NECESSARY FOR NATION'S DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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